

INTEL 21

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

Country : Czechoslovakia

Subject : CHRONOMETRA Plant, Jablonec: Production/Management/Introduction of Military Production of Bomb Timing Devices.

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2. "The national enterprise CHRONOMETRA in Jablonec produces alarm clocks, kitchen clocks, electric clocks, gramophone mechanisms and similar fine mechanical products.

Management

3. "The worker-director of the plant is Miroslav PESEK [redacted] Frantisek BURLANEK
His deputy is Josef JANSKA [redacted] is chairman of the factory's CP organization and chief of the militia corps.

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Production

4. "There are about 140 employees. Although supplies arrive regularly, the production plan is never fulfilled. The best result for 1952, 70%, was achieved in November. [redacted] the complete lack of experience of those in the management is responsible for this state of affairs. During 1952 a ministerial commission visited the factory twice to investigate these deficiencies in production. The members of this commission were similarly unqualified. They questioned most leading factory officials individually but failed to talk to a single foreman or worker. Investigations produced no results. The factory's top triumvirate - BURLANEK, PESEK and JANSKA - were involved in some illegal deals with the light metals allocated to the plant. They managed to disguise these transactions before the Prague commissions.

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5. "Not all factories are so well off as CHRONOMETRA for material supplies. It used to lend essential materials to neighboring plants to help them out. Among these factories were the Pal factory producing brakes for autobuses, the Plastimat factory manufacturing combs and similar fancy goods and the Gramophone plant making electric gramophones. All three factories are located in Jablonec.
6. "The CHRONOMETRA plant produces only the mechanisms for regular gramophones. The gramophone cases are made at a plant in Vrable, Slovakia. The latter is a branch factory of the Gramophone plant in Jablonec, which exports the major part of its total output to other people's democracies, mainly to China.

Introduction of Military Production

"At the beginning of November 1952, the production of timing devices for grenades and bombs was being introduced at the CHRONOMETRA plant. So far only experimental samples has been made under the supervision of three expert technicians from Sternberk. The factory at Sternberk, which produces various kinds of clocks and is considered a kind of sister-plant of CHRONOMETRA, is producing such timing devices for military purposes. Peace production there had been discontinued completely. One week after the introduction of the new production line at the CHRONOMETRA plant, two high-ranking military officials, allegedly from the General Staff in Prague, arrived to inspect the first samples.

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Hours and Wages

8. "An unskilled laborer at CHRONOMETRA earns (late 1952) about 4,500 Kc. per month from which some 600 Kc. are deducted for various taxes, dues, fees and contributions. The plant has no canteen of its own. The workers eat at the canteen of the Jablonec Power Plant, which serves rather good meals. One meal costs the worker ten Kc., the factory paying an additional seven Kc.
9. "The factory works in two daily shifts, with the exception of the assembling department, which works only in one shift.

Local Construction

10. "At Rynovice in the Jablonec district, a huge automobile plant was under construction in late 1952. It will produce Skoda type buses..
11. Electricity Quotas
"All factories and enterprises in Jablonec are allocated a certain daily quota of electricity. Should this quota be surpassed, the factory is charged for the additional current at ten times the regular rate."

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